
PHS Actions for Building Capacity in Assessment

Assessment: monitoring the health of the public. Public health surveillance activities collect, assemble, analyze, use, and disseminate information about the health of the community on a regular and systematic basis. Assessment provides the framework for policy development.

The following are strategies for building capacity in assessment, with actions by agencies and representative examples. The two time periods shown are those during which the action either begins or continues, as for example, **1990-91** and **1992 and beyond**.

Assessment strategy 1: Developing health information and health information systems that are useful to legislative and executive governmental bodies at the Federal, State, and local levels, and to other groups and organizations

Office of the Assistant Secretary for Health

1. Coordinate PHS identification of baseline and future data sources and surveillance and data systems needed to track progress toward the Healthy People 2000 Objectives (*Office of Disease Prevention and Health Promotion*).

1990-91

1992 and beyond

2. Work with the New England Coalition for Disease Prevention and Health Promotion (NECON) to develop a standardized regional data base for evaluating progress in meeting regional health objectives and addressing future health needs. The data base will serve as a model for other regional data bases of its kind (*Office of Intergovernmental Affairs*).

1990-91

1992 and beyond

3. Cosponsor with the National Center for Health Statistics the oversampling of minorities in the National Maternal and Infant Health Survey in an effort to make more precise estimates of health problems of high-risk groups (*Office of Minority Health*).

1990-91

1992 and beyond

4. Encourage the development of adequate data surveillance systems to monitor morbidity and mortality rates, by condition; the adequacy of third party payor coverage; and access, availability, and utilization of services for minority populations (*Office of Minority Health*).

1990-91

1992 and beyond

5. Provide continued financial support and consultation regarding research questions to the National Center for Health Statistics' National Survey of Family Growth (*Office of Population Affairs*).

1990-91

1992 and beyond